



The Mighty Quinn.

Melbourne Storm's Anthony Quinn tackles Matt Myers' questions about fame, injuries, gay fans and just what goes on in those locker rooms.

DNA: You play for the Melbourne Storm and in your first year won the premiership against the Manly Sea Eagles. What was that experience like?

Anthony Quinn: Yeah, it was like a dream come true. I came from the Newcastle Knights and to move to a new club, play in the grand final and win it in the first year... it's one of the biggest highlights of my career.

Your on-field position is winger (centre wing). Can you explain this for our international readers?

It's to catch the ball when we're down the opposition's line so we can score the tries. In AFL it would be known as taking the mark or a specky.

You were badly knocked out for several minutes during the Anzac Day match between Storm and the Warriors (NZ). Was that a frightening experience?

I read reports that I was unconscious for approximately seven minutes. They took me to hospital but my memory didn't really kick in until two-and-a-half hours later. The first thing I remember was the nurse taking me for a scan and I saw my girlfriend Frances in the waiting room. I thought that was the first time I saw her but apparently I had been talking to her for two hours! I was a little bit shocked by that.

Injuries in rugby and AFL come with the territory but how long can the body maintain that kind of punishment?

There was some concern last year for Dallas Johnson because he had a couple of concussions and he wore some headgear for a couple of games. When you look at boxers, they only have two or three fights a year. On the medical side, you really don't want too many knocks to the head.

Was it weird, seeing your face on a trading card for the first time?

Not really, but the best feeling I got was when my two little brothers were asking for them. They were trying to collect them all and being a part of that made me feel proud.

What do you think the reaction would be if a player came out as gay these days?

I don't think, in today's society, there'd be too much of a reaction. I know a lot of people have got different opinions – but personally, and especially with the Melbourne team, even if someone came out in our side I don't think we'd blink an eyelid. Especially having Ian Molly Meldrum as our number one fan!

Have you met Molly?

Yeah, a number of times. He's always at our functions and during the last few grand finals

he's thrown a post-grand final party at his home, which is always a bit of fun.

A lot of women fancy you, but gay guys also think you're hot. Have you ever been hit on?

When I was younger, back in Newcastle, I was approached by a couple of gay guys and I took it as a compliment that they fancied me. When I told the boys they joked around with it but it was all tongue in cheek.

Do you have any gay mates?

Well there's Molly, and my girlfriend runs a topless waiters agency, so I've met a few gay blokes through that.

Have you ever dropped the soap in the shower?

[Laughs] A number of times! It's always a bit of a joke. I think that's why we've now changed to gel soap – so we don't drop it anymore!

What do you get up to behind the scenes?

[Laughs] Well, on Mad Monday I had my pubes set on fire! The boys thought they'd trim my pubes a bit but instead of using scissors they

I'd be happy just relaxing on the Gold Coast.

Have you heard of a website called Hot Aussie Football Players shirtless?

[Laughs] Yeah, in fact Steve Turner [Melbourne Storm player], who's a good mate of mine, loves to google all the players' names with 'gay' to see who's popular with the gay community. I think Billy Slater and Cooper Cronk are up there.

You're on that site, too!

I am? Well, it's good to get a start!

Would you consider Dancing With The Stars?

I would, but I'd need more than a couple of weeks to learn how to dance!

What is the campest song on your iPod?

Hmm... there's Leo Sayer, Madonna, Kylie.

One that I like is *Do You Really Want To Hurt Me* by Culture Club.

What is your porn name? (Your first pet's name and the street you grew up in.)

Misty Mount Riverview!

The St Kilda AFL team recently wore

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used a cigarette lighter. It looked like a really bad bikini wax. But it was all a bit of fun.

Who would you turn gay for?

I won't say Molly. I know he's a supporter and whether you're gay or straight you'd have a good time with Molly. Maybe Mark Webber. He's Australian and a great F1 driver. I've met him too. Hmm... now it'll be very awkward if I meet him again!

If you could go on a date with any celebrity, who would you choose?

I'd have to say Eva Longoria because when *Desperate Housewives* first came out we always used to watch it and I have my girlfriend's approval on that one.

Who would you rather have a beer with: David Beckham or Michael Schumacher?

Schumacher! I've got a framed Ferrari poster with his and all the previous drivers' signatures. I haven't met him but I met a few of the Ferrari guys two years ago and got a tour through the pits. I like any sort of motor sports – F1, Indies and V8s. I'm a bit of a rev head.

A lot of sportspeople move into careers in the media. Can you see yourself doing that?

Probably not. I'm not one to talk too much or be an out-there person. I think I'd fall into a role that's a bit quieter and behind the scenes.

masks due to swine flu. Have you had to do anything similar in the Melbourne Storm?

No, not as yet. We haven't had to take measures that far but we have spoken about it and we're very conscious of it. It would throw the NRL in quite a mess if the whole team had to get quarantined.

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

It would have to be my manager Darryl Mather. I've known him since I was 16. Overall, I've had many different coaches that have helped me through things but I'd say the person that's been there and had the most influence is Darryl. He's lovely.

What about influence on your life?

I'd have to say my mum, but also my girlfriend Frances. She's opened my eyes up to different foods, cultures, art, fashion, even gay people. In fact, the city of Melbourne has also been an influence. In Newcastle you can get away with wearing boardies and a shirt but down here you want to fit in so you start dressing up a bit.

What do you wear under your shorts?

Speedos and Bonds undies. Speedos have a drawstring so you have that safety backup. You don't really want to flash the crowd while you're playing. I think a couple of bums have been flashed during games before but not mine!